

MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

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MEMO TO: The Senate Judiciary Committee

MEMO FROM: Daniel B. Michael, MD, PhD, President

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 1283

On behalf of the physicians of the Michigan State Medical Society, I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 1283. This bill specifies that if a patient seeking an abortion requires an ultrasound, the image must come from "the most technologically advanced ultrasound equipment available at that location." Senate Bill 1283 seeks to legislatively overrule the medical judgment of the treating physician and would create confusion about how to comply with the change to the law.

The opposition of MSMS to House Bill 1283 should not be construed as a position on the issue of abortion. The concerns of the medical community are limited to the specific wording of this legislation, including the following:

- The professional judgment of the physician should be the determining factor for the course of treatment. This decision is based on the needs of the patient as well as the limits or risks of the equipment available to the physician. This decision is based on the clinical skills of the physician from their years of training to determine the proper course of treatment for their patient. Senate Bill 1283 creates a rigid standard that may overrule the physician from applying the appropriate standard of care in certain instances.
- The term "technologically advanced" is not defined. Therefore, this requirement could create ambiguity about what the most appropriate diagnostic equipment is to comply with the standard. If a location has multiple ultrasounds, the most technologically advanced model could, in many instances, be a subjective designation.
- The term "location" is not defined. If the location were a health system or a multi-specialty clinic, there may be several ultrasounds on-site that may not be appropriate for use on pregnant women that are more "technologically advanced" than the ones used routinely by the obstetrical unit.

Physicians are committed to providing the highest quality care based on the medical needs of the patient. Senate Bill replaces medical judgment with a single standard that may not be medically appropriate in all instances. Furthermore, this legislation creates uncertainty for physicians who would be required to comply with this law as the terminology is inadequately defined. For these reasons, MSMS opposes Senate Bill 1283.

